

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for calculating a multi-point VLAN latency measure, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of links for a VLAN having a total number of VLAN paths, each of the said links having a first side and a second side and including a latency value, a count of access switches on the said first side of the said link and a count of access switches on the said second side of the said link;

initializing a latency counter to zero;

for each of said the links in said the VLAN:

 multiplying said the count of access switches on said the first side of said the link by said the count of access switches on said the second side of said the link to derive a count of paths that include said the link;

 multiplying said the count of paths that include said the link by said the latency value to derive a total latency for said the link; and

 incrementing said the latency counter by said the total latency value for said the link; and

 dividing said the latency counter by the total number of VLAN paths ~~a count of paths in said VLAN~~ to derive the said multi-point VLAN latency measure for the said VLAN.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said the total number of VLAN paths ~~count of paths~~ is calculated by multiplying a total count of access switches in said the VLAN by one less than said the total count of access switches in said the VLAN and then dividing the result by two.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said the links are received from an operational support system.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting a request to an operational support system for ~~said~~the plurality of links for ~~said~~the VLAN, wherein ~~said~~the count of access switches on ~~said~~the first side of ~~said~~the link and ~~said~~the count of access switches on ~~said~~the second side of ~~said~~the link are calculated by ~~said~~the operational support system in response to ~~said~~the transmitting.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said~~the count of access switches on ~~said~~the first side of ~~said~~the link and ~~said~~the count of access switches on ~~said~~the second side of ~~said~~the link are calculated by an operational support system as part of initializing ~~said~~the VLAN.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said~~the latency value is updated on a periodic basis.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said~~the receiving is in response to a user request for ~~said~~the multi-point VLAN latency measure for ~~said~~the VLAN.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising outputting ~~said~~the multi-point VLAN latency measure.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising outputting ~~said~~the multi-point VLAN latency measure to a service level agreement system.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~said~~the VLAN is an Ethernet VLAN.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A system for calculating a multi-point VLAN latency measure, the system comprising:

a network;

a host system in communication with ~~said~~the network, ~~said~~the host system

including application software to implement a method comprising:

receiving via the network a plurality of links for a VLAN having a total number of VLAN paths, ~~via said network~~, each ~~said~~ of the links having a first side and a second side and including a latency value, a count of access switches on ~~said~~the first side of ~~said~~the link and a count of access switches on ~~said~~the second side of ~~said~~the link;

initializing a latency counter to zero;

for each ~~said~~ of the links in ~~said~~the VLAN:

multiplying ~~said~~the count of access switches on ~~said~~the first side of ~~said~~the link by ~~said~~the count of access switches on ~~said~~the second side of ~~said~~the link to derive a count of paths that include ~~said~~the link;

multiplying ~~said~~the count of paths that include ~~said~~the link by ~~said~~the latency value to derive a total latency for ~~said~~the link; and

incrementing ~~said~~the latency counter by ~~said~~the total latency value for ~~said~~the link; and

dividing ~~said~~the latency counter by the total number of VLAN paths ~~a count of paths in said VLAN~~ to derive ~~said~~the multi-point VLAN latency measure for ~~said~~the VLAN.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12 wherein ~~said~~the network is the Internet.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12 wherein ~~said~~the network in an intranet.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12 further comprising a storage device in communication with said the network wherein said the plurality of links are stored in said the storage device.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 wherein said the method further comprises outputting said the multi-point VLAN latency measure to said the storage device.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12 further comprising a user system in communication with said the network, wherein said the receiving is performed in response to a request from said the user system for said the multi-point VLAN latency measure for said the VLAN.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for calculating a multi-point VLAN latency measure, the computer program product comprising:

a storage medium readable by a processing circuit and storing instructions for execution by the processing circuit for facilitating a method comprising:

receiving a plurality of links for a VLAN having a total number of VLAN paths, each said of the links having a first side and a second side and including a latency value, a count of access switches on said the first side of said the link and a count of access switches on said the second side of said the link;

initializing a latency counter to zero;

for each said of the links in said the VLAN:

multiplying said the count of access switches on said the first side of said the link by said the count of access switches on said the second side of said the link to derive a count of paths that include said the link;

multiplying said the count of paths that include said the link by said the latency value to derive a total latency for said the link; and

incrementing ~~said~~the latency counter by ~~said~~the total latency value
for ~~said~~the link; and

dividing ~~said~~the latency counter by the total number of VLAN paths
~~count of paths in said VLAN~~ to derive ~~said~~the multi-point VLAN latency measure for
~~said~~the VLAN.